

CLAIMS

1. Process for racemising an enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide with a strong base in an organic solvent, characterised  
5 in that the strong base is chemically reactive towards water.
2. Process according to Claim 1, characterised in that a metal alkoxide, a metal alkyl, a metal amide, or a metal hydride is applied as the strong base.
3. Process according to Claim 2, characterised in that a metal alkoxide is  
10 applied as the strong base.
4. Process according to any one of Claims 1-3, characterised in that the racemisation is conducted with 0.001 to 1000 mole% of strong base relative to the amide.
5. Process according to claim 4, characterised in that the racemisation is  
15 conducted with 0.1 to 100 mole% of strong base relative to the amide.
6. Process according to any one of Claims 1-5, characterised in that an N-benzylidene primary amino acid amide is used as the Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide.
7. Process according to any one of Claims 1-6, characterised in that the  
20 enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide is derived from an aliphatic primary amino acid amide.
8. Process according to Claim 7, characterised in that the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of a primary amino acid amide is derived from tertiary-leucine amide.
- 25 9. Process according to any one of Claims 1-8, characterised in that an aromatic hydrocarbon, a cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon or an ether is applied as the organic solvent.
10. Process according to Claim 9, characterised in that the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon.
- 30 11. Process according to any one of Claims 1-10, wherein the enantiomer-enriched primary amino acid amide is converted, in an organic solvent, into the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base of the primary amino acid amide, which is mixed with a strong base and the obtained Schiff base of the primary amino acid amide is converted into the primary amino acid  
35 amide.